

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 115286
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EUR-12 DPW-01 EB-07
IGA-02 DHA-02 /075 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL/FMLC
APPROVED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL
-----192210Z 092534 /14

O 192116Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 115286

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: TEXT OF STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF TO PRESS
MAY 19, 1977

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT AS READ TO THE PRESS MAY 19 BY CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF, CHAIRMAN OF THE HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.
2. BEGIN TEXT: GOOD MORNING, THANK YOU FOR COMING. FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS NOW WE HAVE BEEN HEARING OF SO-CALLED SECRET UNDERSTANDINGS NEGOTIATED IN 1973 WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH VIETNAM BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER.

INITIAL WORD OF THESE UNDERSTANDINGS AND REFERENCE TO AN ACTUAL LETTER FROM MR. NIXON AND MR. KISSINGER IN THE PAST HAVE ALWAYS INDICATED THAT NO SECRET AGREEMENTS WERE MADE. TODAY I AM RELEASING DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT MR. NIXON
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 115286

DID INDEED WRITE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG ON FEB. 1, 1973, DISCUSSING \$3.25 BILLION IN RE-CONSTRUCTION AID, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$1.5 BILLION OF POST-WAR ASSISTANCE.

I AM RELEASING THIS MATERIAL TODAY AND I HAVE PURSUED THIS MATTER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THE EVENTS OF 1973 HAVE CONFUSED THE ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS.

IF THIS CONFUSION IS TO BE ALLEVIATED, AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS THE EVENTS OF 1973 MUST BE CLARIFIED, THEN PUT BEHIND US.

LET ME ALSO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT I CONSIDER THE RELEASE OF THESE DOCUMENTS TODAY TO BE AN HISTORIC EVENT IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD; SPECIFICALLY, THAT NOTHING WHICH WAS SAID IN 1973, OR WHICH WILL BE SAID NOW THAT DOCUMENTS DETAILING THESE EVENTS ARE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, SHOULD BE CONSTRUED TO HOLD FALSE HOPE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM THAT PROMISES MADE IN 1973 CAN BE CONSIDERED VALID TODAY.

AS HAS BEEN FIRMLY INDICATED BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, BY THE CONGRESS, AND BY MR. NIXON HIMSELF IN HIS LETTER OF MAY 14 TO ME, THE EVENTS OF THE PAST HAVE NO BEARING ON ANY FUTURE AGREEMENTS WHICH MAY BE NEGOTIATED. THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS HAVE BEEN BREACHED AND THEREFORE VOIDED BY THE ACTIONS OF ALL OF THE SIGNATORS.

SO MY PURPOSE IN RELEASING THIS MATERIAL TODAY IS NOT TO CREATE FALSE HOPES, BUT TO HELP CLARIFY THE HISTORICAL RECORD SO THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE PRIVY TO WHAT THE VIETNAMESE HAVE KNOWN FOR FOUR YEARS.

I FEEL ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT POINT WHICH MUST BE MADE TODAY IS THAT THE RELEASE OF THESE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS UNDERSCORES THE NECESSITY OF CONDUCTING DIPLOMACY IN AS OPEN A FASHION AS IS POSSIBLE. THIS COURSE THE CARTER ADMINIS-

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 115286

TRATION IS APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO FOLLOW, AND I HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY GRATIFIED AT THE FULL COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION WHICH MY SUBCOMMITTEE AND I HAVE ENJOYED WITH SECRETARY VANCE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, AND THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

AS THESE DOCUMENTS MAKE CLEAR, AND AS MR. NIXON CONFIRMS IN HIS LETTER TO ME, THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY MISLED AS TO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF ANY SECRET NEGOTIATIONS, MUCH LESS AS TO THE ACTUAL CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENTS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE DURING THE CRUCIAL EVENTS OF 1973 I PERSONALLY LISTENED TO MR. KISSINGER, AND HIS PREDECESSOR, WILLIAM ROGERS, DENY WHAT WAS IN FACT THE TRUTH.

AS RECENTLY AS LAST SUMMER, THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WAS TOLD

BY A STATE DEPARTMENT WITNESS THAT NO SECRET ARRANGEMENTS ON RECONSTRUCTION AID HAD BEEN MADE, AND DR. KISSINGER'S PREVIOUS TESTIMONY TO THAT EFFECT WAS RECALLED AND AGAIN CONFIRMED.

THIS LEGACY OF SECRECY HAS BEEN IMMEASURABLY HARMFUL TO US OVER THE YEARS. BUT I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE DETERMINATION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO BE OPEN AND ABOVE BOARD WITH CONGRESS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE WORLD WILL BE ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE BY THE VIETNAMESE, AND WITH ANY WITH WHOM WE DEAL IN THE FUTURE.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS IN PARIS NOW BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM ARE GOOD, CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS, FREE FROM THE TAIN OF SECRECY. I HOPE THAT THE VIETNAMESE WILL PUT THE EVENTS OF THE PAST BEHIND THEM, AND SEE TODAY'S PROPOSALS IN LIGHT OF THE REALITY WHICH EXISTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 115286

FOR THE RECORD, I SHOULD NOTE THAT WHEN I WROTE BOTH MR. NIXON AND MR. KISSINGER ON FEB. 22 OF THIS YEAR ASKING THEM TO RELEASE TRUE COPIES OF THEIR CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREEMENTS OF 1973, I WAS ADVISED THAT KISSINGER WAS NO LONGER AT THE DEPARTMENT. MR. KISSINGER'S OFFICE ADVISED ME TO SEEK OUT THIS INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

EARLY LAST WEEK, GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT CALLED ME ON MR. NIXON'S BEHALF, AND SAID THE FORMER PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH ME. ON SATURDAY THE 14TH, THE LETTER I AM TODAY RELEASING WAS MAILED FROM SAN CLEMENTE.

AS A FINAL NOTE BEFORE OPENING UP THE DISCUSSION FOR QUESTIONS, I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR MY POSITION ON THE ISSUES OF REPARATIONS AND OUR MEN MISSING IN ACTION:

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN RECONSTRUCTION AID AND THE MIA ISSUE. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS INDICATED AND THE CONGRESS IN ITS RECENT VOTE HAS UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT THE U.S. CANNOT GIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM AT THIS TIME. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE HAS MADE THIS POSITION CLEAR IN PARIS. THE QUESTION OF ANY FUTURE U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM WILL BE DEPENDENT ON FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE WILL OF CONGRESS.

THE QUESTION OF INFORMATION ON OUR MIA'S, HOWEVER, IS ONE OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN, AND WHICH HAS EXISTED INDEPENDENT OF ANY DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER TOPICS IN THIS OR ANY OTHER

YEAR.

THE MIA ISSUE AND INFORMATION WHICH VIETNAM CAN SUPPLY ON
OUR MEN IS A MATTER WHICH SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO THE HUMANI-
TARIAN CONCERNS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERN-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 115286

MENT, AND I HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE IT WILL BE ADDRESSED
IN THIS WAY.

MY SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FOLLOW-
ING UP ON THE WORK OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MIA'S, AND
WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A RESOLUTION OF THIS TRAGIC
SITUATION. END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, LEGISLATORS, AGREEMENTS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SPEECHES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE115286
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDROSENTHAL/FMLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770179-0378
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770538/aaaabgyo.tel
Line Count: 189
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02cccc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2447065
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF TO PRESS MAY 19, 1977
TAGS: PFOR, US, VN, (WOLFF, LESTER L)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02cccc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009